



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,385	04/01/2004	Hossein Eslambolchi	2002-0524CON	7594

26652 7590 10/28/2005

AT&T CORP.
P.O. BOX 4110
MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JIMMY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2829

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/815,385

Applicant(s)

ESLAMBOLCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Jimmy Nguyen

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20 - 46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20 - 46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Argument

The examiner acknowledges the terminal disclaimer filed 8/22/05, however upon further search the examiner is making new ground of rejection as follow.

Claims Status

The examiner acknowledges claims 1 –19 have been canceled in the preliminary amendment. Claims 20 – 46 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 20 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mashikian et al (US 5,530,364).

As to claim 20, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6, and 13) an apparatus for locating an insulation fault on a cable including a conductor carrying a current, the cable being at least partially submerged in a liquid, the apparatus comprising:

at least one voltage probe (30, 32) adapted to be positioned adjacent the cable (10) and displaced along the cable (10) whereby the liquid conducts at least a portion of

Art Unit: 2829

the current between the probe and an insulation fault (see the abstract) on the cable (10); and

a voltage comparator (104, 110, fig 13) electrically connected to the at least one voltage probe (30, 32) for detecting an insulation fault when the voltage probe is positioned adjacent the fault.

As to claim 21, Mashikian et al disclose (fig 6) the apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a body holding the at least one voltage probe (50) the body being adapted to at least partially surround a transverse section of the cable (10).

As to claim 22, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6) the apparatus of claim 21, wherein the at least one voltage probe comprises a plurality of voltage probes (30, 32) angularly spaced around the transverse section (fig 6) of the cable (10).

As to claim 23, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6) the apparatus of claim 21, wherein the conductor (10) is an optical fiber cable having a cable locating conductor, and the body is adapted to at least partially surround a transverse section of the fiber optic cable.

As to claim 24, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6) the apparatus of claim 20, wherein the at least one voltage probe (30, 32) presents a conductive surface facing the cable (10).

As to claim 25, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6) the apparatus of claim 20, wherein the liquid is ground water

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 26 - 32, 38, 40, 42 - 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mashikian et al (US 5,530,364) in view of the APA (admitted prior art, back ground of the invention).

As to claims 26, 38, 42, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6, and 13) at least one voltage probe (30, 32) adapted to be positioned adjacent the cable (10) and displaced along the cable and a voltage comparator (104, 110) electrically connected to the at least one voltage probe for detecting an insulation fault when the voltage probe is positioned adjacent the fault.

However, Eslambolchi et al are silent on the voltage source level is 80 and 100 volts to the conductor

On the other hand, the APA (page 3, line 1 of the back ground of the invention) disclose the voltage source level is 80 and 100 volts to the conductor.

It would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supply 80 – 100 volts as a voltage supplier to the cable testing system for the purpose of the sending a strong signal to the cable for easier fault detection.

As to claims 27, 29, 43, 45, The APA (page 3 line 1 of the back ground of the invention) disclose the voltage source is AC and DC (page 3 paragraph 4).

As to claims 28, 44, The APA (page 3 line 2 of the back ground of the invention) disclose the AC cable locating tone is between approximately 220 and 440 Hz.

As to claim 30, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6, and 13) a body holding the at least one voltage probe (30, 32) , the body being adapted to at least partially surround a transverse section of the cable (10).

As to claim 31, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6) the apparatus of claim 2 1, wherein the at least one voltage probe comprises a plurality of voltage probes (30, 32) angularly spaced around the transverse section (fig 6) of the cable (10).

Art Unit: 2829

As to claims 40, 46, 32, Mashikian et al disclose (figs 4, 6, and 13) disclose the cable (10) is a fiber optic cable and the current is a cable locating current.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-5858. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ramtez Nestor, can be reached on 571 – 272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jimmy Nguyen

10/ 21/05


VINH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
A-u-2829
10/27/05